

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

JANUARY 2, 1946 PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 5 • VOL. 13, NO. 5

MONTHLY MEMO TO LOCAL PRESIDENTS

God bless the year —

*Thy coming in, thy going out,
Thy rest, thy traveling about;
The rough, the smooth,
The bright, the drear,
God bless the year.*

☆☆☆

Compulsory Military Training. Thank you so much for the flood of replies that came in response to the appeal in our November *Bulletin*. Every reply has been carefully read, and the letters really helped us get a cross section of the thinking of our membership. Because of your interest we are publishing in full in this issue the testimony given before the Congressional Committee hearing on this matter.

PLEASE give this information to your members! Far too often members write us about matters which we trust you to relay to them. We cannot possibly write to every member, but through giving you full information about many things each month we rely on you to keep your own officers and members informed. The 1945 *Bulletins* of January, June, July, and September gave you earlier statements; please keep a file of *Bulletins* for ready reference when questions are asked of you.

United Nations Organization. Unless you have been following international affairs very closely you may not be aware of how much work is going on in various fields of international cooperation. Later this month a special edition of the *Bulletin* will give you more detailed information about the UNO and its various agencies. You will be able to use this issue as a basis for study.

The first meeting of the General Assembly of the UNO has been scheduled for January 10 in London, where the Preparatory Commission is now at work. This is the most important event of this generation.

A year ago we were working to create public understanding about the need for such an organization; now we have the machinery, and it is going to be set in motion. *Upon the successful operation of this machinery depends the future of your children and all children everywhere! If it is made to work, we can hope for a world at peace and an opportunity for our children to live a life of their own choosing. If it fails, we shall have to expect one war after another, each more horrible than the last.*

Public opinion will make the final decision regarding the success or failure of the UNO.

What Is Involved in "Child Welfare." Our area of work, as defined in the Objects, is child welfare, but we are having to enlarge our understanding of the term. We are entering the postwar world we have talked about so long. Many materials and much equipment go into any building, and the same holds true for building a better national life. We must hold fast to all we have been doing to improve our

home life, our schools, and our communities, but we must also be concerned about

- *Whether or not there are homes for people to live in.*

What about the housing situation in your community?

- *Whether or not health services are available.*

Will the next generation grow up strong and healthy?

Will remedial defects be cared for in youth? Will babies be born under good conditions? Will their mothers receive needed care? These are national as well as community problems.

- *Whether all states are financially able to give their children the minimum essential education to live in today's world.*

This too is a national as well as a local problem.

- *Whether every child is given the moral foundations on which to build a good life as a citizen of the home, the community, and the nation.*

Let us be more concerned about the development of character and about eliminating destructive influences from our communities.

Month by month we shall discuss such matters more in detail in order that we may be true to our theme of the year, "Together We Build." If we can do some much needed building in our own bit of America, in the nation, and in the world—now and in the immediate years ahead—we shall have laid strong foundations for the sort of world we have hoped for when war ceased. *It will not just happen! We must work for it even harder than we worked to win the war.* This is the challenge of 1946.

☆☆☆

Thank you one and all for the many Christmas messages that have come to me.

Ginnetta A. Hastings!
President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

THE P.T.A. RADIO PROGRAM IS ON THE AIR EVERY SATURDAY

- Time—1:30 p. m., C.S.T.
- Over—NBC Stations

JANUARY BROADCASTS

January 5—"The Baxters Air Their Views on Military Training"

January 12—"Sex Education Is Essential"

January 19—"The Bobby Sox Brigade"

January 26—"Shall Sandy Go to Nursery School?"

DON'T FORGET TO LISTEN!

P.
T.
A.

COMPULSORY PEACETIME MILITARY TRAINING



RELEASED
DECEMBER
1945

• Statement on Compulsory Peacetime Military Training
Presented to the House Military Affairs Committee

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Military Affairs Committee:

AS president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers I come before you today representing three and a half million parents and teachers in every state of the Union, the District of Columbia, and the Territory of Hawaii. There is no organization in this country more vitally concerned with the outcome of the hearings on compulsory peacetime military training and with subsequent legislation than the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

No group has given greater numbers of its sons and daughters, brothers and husbands to the conflict just ended. No group has a larger stake in the precarious peace in which we now find ourselves. No group is giving more serious thought to the problems of national and international security than our organization, since the principal reason for its existence is to promote the welfare of children—all children—whose very lives hang in the balance between lasting peace and future war. Thus I believe the point of view of this vast body, which I have the honor to represent, is exceedingly important and should carry weight in the deliberations of this Committee.

• A year ago the official position of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers was that no immediate legislative action be taken on the matter of compulsory peacetime military training because we felt that we ought to know *what* we were doing and *why* before we approved such a revolutionary change in our American way of life. We asked such questions as these:

What plan of military service would be agreed upon by the other Allied Nations after the war?

What sort of training would be involved in the new program proposed by our country?

Could military training be integrated into regular school and college programs?

How might we know what our military needs would be ten years hence? Should not the men and women in service have something to say about this matter?

We believed that our organization and the nation as a whole should study every aspect of these questions before coming to a decision.

Much has happened since we took that position and asked those questions in December 1944. The war has ended. The atomic bomb has changed methods of warfare and has become a decisive factor in international relations. Other scientific developments have made obsolete much of our

previous planning. The United Nations Organization is on its way toward becoming a functioning reality. And now President Truman and high-ranking army and navy officers are urging immediate enactment of a program of one year's compulsory military training for all able-bodied eighteen-year-old boys.

• In the light of these developments, and in order to gain a true picture of the opinions of our large membership, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers appealed to every parent-teacher association in the country to discuss this matter and to send us the results of its thinking. As was to be expected, there was a very wide response from every part of the country. A few replies indicated complete opposition to *any* form of compulsory peacetime military training, and a few others showed complete accord with the present recommendations of army and navy leaders. However, the great majority of parent-teacher members said that too little was yet known regarding our commitments to the United Nations Organization to permit them to make a decision. Even more important, they did not know what would constitute a complete plan for national defense in view of the many factors involved in such a program.

A great many of these men and women expressed themselves regarding the desirability of coordinating military training—if it is eventually deemed essential—with existing educational programs rather than removing the boys from educational institutions to military camps for one year. The suggestion that a commission be appointed to make a complete study of the whole matter came up repeatedly in the letters we received.

• We also asked our national leaders, who come from every state, from the District of Columbia, and from Hawaii, to discuss the matter at every opportunity so that they might bring to the meeting of our Board of Managers, held in Kansas City, December 2-6, a reflection of opinion as they had heard it expressed at state board meetings and at other gatherings. A special committee of our organization then studied all the material accumulated. We devoted several hours of our Board meeting to free and complete discussion of the question, and we reached the following conclusions unanimously:

1. We believe that the way to achieve world peace is through the United Nations Organization.

Representatives of the National Congress of Parents

and Teachers made their contribution—along with other consultants to the United States delegation at the San Francisco Conference—to the formulation of the United Nations Charter. Furthermore, through a comprehensive, nation-wide program of education carried on in our own units, we had no small share in molding the public opinion that resulted in this nation's ratification of the Charter. We would therefore be less than true to our principles if we did not reiterate our fundamental belief in the potential workability of a world organization. We expect to give the United Nations Organization our wholehearted support as it takes its first, historic steps toward the establishment of world government.

2. In order to defend our country and enforce the obligations that the United States has assumed as a member of the United Nations Organization, we believe we shall need:

- a. *A highly trained, professional military force.* To achieve and maintain such a force we advocate vigorous promotion of a new program of voluntary enlistment. We also recommend more adequate pay for the members of this force, more attractive retirement options, wider opportunities for vocational and other educational training, and greater recognition of ability through a sound system of promotions for those who choose to make a career of military service.
- b. *A nationally encouraged program of scientific research and technological development.* In this new atomic age it is imperative that our nation retain its position of scientific and technological leadership.
- c. *Industrial development that will keep pace with scientific research, and industrial preparedness for quick conversion to war production, should the need arise.*
- d. *A healthy citizenry developed through a comprehensive program of health and physical fitness.* This national program should begin with every child in infancy and follow him through to maturity.
- e. *An educated citizenry.* By this we mean a body of citizens who can read, write, think, and vote intelligently; who possess the technical skills to produce goods and provide specialized services, as necessary in peace as in war; and who are not only devoted to our democratic way of life but also have a clear understanding of the relationship of this country to the rest of the world.

3. The May-Gurney bill, calling for one year of compulsory military training for all able-bodied boys when they become eighteen years of age, does not take into consideration the above-mentioned larger needs for our national defense. We are therefore opposed to this bill in its present form, for we believe it to be wholly inadequate.

4. As an alternative to the enactment of the May-Gurney bill, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers advocates immediate appointment of a National Defense Commission empowered to study this nation's peacetime defense needs and to draw up a comprehensive plan to be used as the basis of legislation that will assure a peacetime military organization competent to defend us against attack and commensurate with our international commitments.

We urge that this commission be adequately financed and directed to survey not only our needs for military

establishments and military personnel but also civilian mobilization, scientific research, industrial production, and the dispersal of natural resources—as all these relate to national preparedness and security. We specifically recommend that the members of this commission be selected for their integrity, special knowledge, and experience in national affairs and that they include representatives of our nation's diplomatic, legislative, industrial, scientific, and educational bodies as well as of our military organizations.

If, after thorough study, this commission should find compulsory military training an indispensable part of a long-range national defense program, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will consider supporting the principle of such training. We wish to make it clear, however, that in our opinion no military training program can supply the health and educational services needed to prepare our boys and girls for effective citizenship. The major responsibility for developing healthy and enlightened young Americans has rested with our schools. Wherever they have fallen short of discharging that responsibility it is because we, the public, have not provided the money, the equipment, the personnel, and the moral backing needed to do the job. The parent-teacher organization has long recommended and will continue to recommend increased public support for equalized health and educational opportunities for all children and youth.

5. Finally, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers believes that if some program of compulsory military training is proved to be essential to our national security, such a program should be correlated with the educational needs and plans of the boys (and possibly the girls) affected by it.

The arbitrary conscription of all able-bodied boys when they become eighteen years old is unreasonable and unnecessary. Military training should be no more than one phase of a boy's preparation for the obligations of citizenship and should be so coordinated with his college education or advanced technical training that his educational growth is not interrupted and his larger service to his country not thereby impaired.

• Let me close by emphasizing that the National Congress of Parents and Teachers believes in the highest type of national preparedness—military, economic, intellectual, scientific, physical, and moral. So far no bill that has come before the House Military Affairs Committee has even attempted to make provision for this comprehensive preparedness. We hopefully await the introduction of such legislation—and please be assured that when it comes it will have our support.

Respectfully submitted,

Minnetta A. Hastings

MRS. WILLIAM A. HASTINGS, PRESIDENT
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Volume 13

JANUARY 2, 1946

Number 5

Published monthly August through December, semimonthly in January, monthly February through May, bimonthly June and July, at 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois, by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Subscription price: 20 cents a year. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office, Chicago, Illinois, Jan. 18, 1941. Additional entry at Aurora, Illinois, Dec. 21, 1939. Under Act of March 3, 1879.

WE BRING YOU THE BOARD MEETING

The Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers met at Kansas City, Missouri, on December 4, 5, and 6. Here are the first pictures ever taken of the National Board actually in session and at work on the business of the organization. From time to time the National Congress Bulletin will bring you interesting pictures of other Congress personalities and groups in action.



The Executive Committee of the National Congress. Left to right: Mrs. Newton P. Leonard, Mrs. O. C. Ufford, Mrs. James Fitts Hill, Mrs. E. W. Emery, Dr. Joseph Miller, Mrs. H. S. Klein, Mrs. L. W. Hughes, Mrs. William A. Hastings, Charles W. Phillips, Mrs. Joseph W. Eselman, Mrs. Jack M. Little, Mrs. James C. Parker, Mrs. J. S. Stewart, and Mrs. R. B. Gordon. J. W. Faust and Mrs. Albert L. Gardner were unable to attend the meeting.



East meets West. Mrs. J. S. Stewart, regional vice-president, from the state of Washington, and Charles W. Phillips, second vice-president, from North Carolina. Mrs. Stewart is chairman of the committee to nominate officers for 1946-49.



A view of one of the Board sessions taken during the symposium "We Build Through Specialized Services." Mrs. E. T. Hale, Publications chairman, is addressing the group.



The officers of the State Presidents' and the National Chairmen's Conferences: Mrs. Joseph W. Eselman, Alabama; and Mrs. Gertrude E. Flyte, South Dakota.

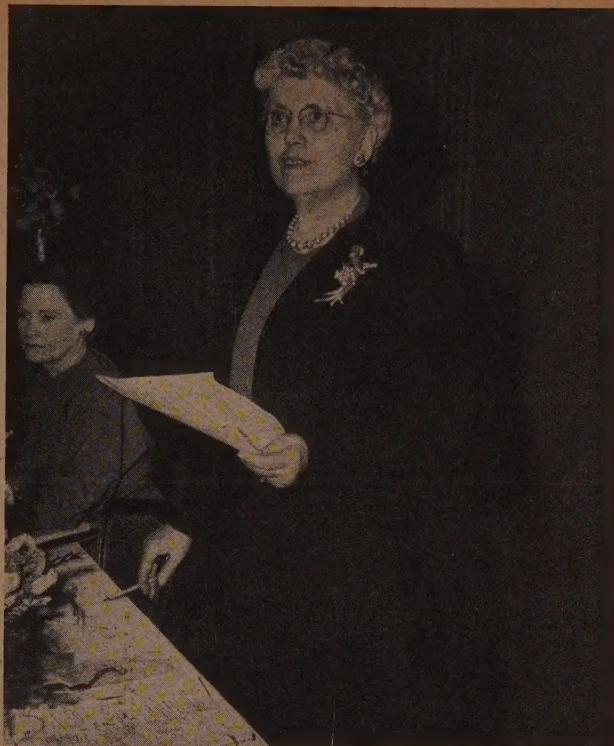


The above Board members did not participate in any of the symposiums because they all gave special reports. From left to right they are: top row, Mrs. William Kletzer, Founders Day chairman; Mrs. True Davis, Membership chairman; and Mrs. J. W. Bingham, Cooperation with Colleges chairman. Bottom row: Mrs. H. F. Godeke, Procedure and Bylaws chairman; Mrs. James Flitts Hill, Magazine president, who also serves as Magazine chairman; and Mrs. Malcolm McClellan, Legislation chairman.

LOOKING TOWARD TOMORROW'S EDUCATION



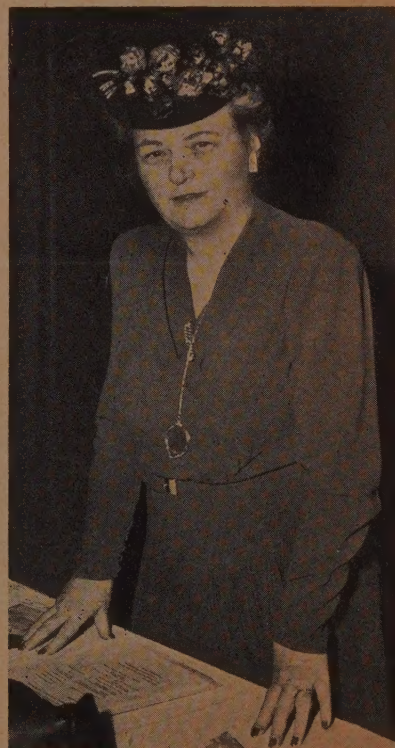
This new Congress publication was introduced to the Board members at the Kansas City meeting. Enough copies of it have been distributed to the state congresses to provide one free for each local association, each state board member, and leaders at council and district levels. The booklet was prepared by the Joint Committee of the National Education Association and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.



Mrs. William A. Hastings, president of the National Congress, presiding at one of the Board sessions. To her right is Mrs. H. S. Klein, secretary of the Congress.



A section of the Board listening to the symposium "We Build Better Health and Physical Fitness." Mrs. L. K. Nicholson, Safety chairman, is addressing the group.



Mrs. L. W. Hughes, first vice-president, presiding at one of the sessions.



Hawaii sent its state president to the meeting. From left to right: Mrs. Harold St. John, state president of our Hawaii Congress; Mrs. William A. Hastings; and Charles W. Phillips.



A group of men members of the Board of Managers. Left to right: Dr. Ralph H. Ojemann, Parent Education chairman; Knox Walker, Citizenship chairman; Charles W. Phillips, second vice-president; Dr. Lloyd P. Young, state president of New Hampshire; Dr. C. B. Wivel, representing Mrs. Kim A. Yoder, state president of New Mexico; Dr. Joseph Miller, Mental Hygiene chairman; H. B. McCarty, Radio chairman; and Edmund Ritchie, state president of Maine.



Newly elected officers of the State Presidents' Conference. Left to right: Mrs. Walter Beckham of Florida, Mrs. J. J. Garland of California, and Mrs. Ben McCamant of Kansas.



The Board of Directors of *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*. Left to right: Mrs. Murl Hendrickson, state president of Wyoming; Mrs. Jack M. Little, regional vice-president; Mrs. William A. Hastings, Congress president; Mrs. James Fitts Hill, president of the Magazine; Mrs. John E. Hayes, Publicity chairman of the Congress and secretary of the Magazine; Dr. Elise H. Martens, chairman of committee on the Exceptional Child; and Mrs. H. S. Klein, Congress secretary. Unable to attend this meeting were Mrs. L. W. Hughes, Congress first vice-president; Mrs. Albert L. Gardner, regional vice-president and Magazine treasurer; Dr. Edgar Dale, Visual Education chairman; and J. W. Faust, Congress treasurer.



The Board dinner meeting. Mrs. William A. Hastings presided; Dr. Martha Eliot, associate chief of the Children's Bureau, was the speaker. Parent-teacher officers from Kansas City and adjoining towns were guests of the Board of Managers.



Participants in the symposium "We Build Better Schools and Greater Appreciation of Cultural Values." From left to right: Agnes Samuelson, School Education chairman; Mrs. Paul H. Leonard, School Lunch chairman; Mrs. Jack M. Little, regional vice-president and leader; Mrs. Curtis Stout, Music chairman; Mrs. Gertrude E. Flyte, Art chairman; and H. B. McCarty, Radio chairman.



Leader and discussants in the symposium "We Build Through Specialized Services." From left to right: Mrs. R. B. Gordon, leader; Mrs. Charles D. Center, Programs chairman; Mrs. Carl R. Bristor, Preschool Service chairman; Mrs. Grover Hartt, High School Service chairman; Dr. I. D. Weeks, Rural Service chairman; Mrs. E. T. Hale, Publications chairman; and Mrs. John E. Hayes, Publicity chairman.



Another view of one of the sessions of the Board. Ordinarily hotels assign the Congress larger and better meeting rooms, but Kansas City, Missouri, took the Board meeting after arrangements to hold it in Chicago had to be canceled and under the circumstances gave the organization the best room it had left. Because of the pillars and other arrangements, it was impossible to photograph the complete Board in action.



Arriving for the symposium "We Build a Better Community Life and Better Citizenship, Nationally and Internationally." Left to right: Mrs. Rollin Brown, Recreation chairman; Knox Walker, Citizenship chairman; Mrs. Harry M. Mulberry, Reading and Library Service chairman; Charles W. Phillips, second vice-president, leader; and Mrs. R. H. Jesse, International Relations chairman.



The "We Build Better Homes" symposium group. Left to right: Mrs. Nathaniel E. White, Character and Spiritual Education chairman; Dr. Ralph H. Ojemann, Parent Education chairman; and Mrs. George E. Calvert, Home and Family Life chairman. The leader of this symposium, Mrs. L. W. Hughes, was called home.



The group that discussed the symposium topic "We Build Better Health and Physical Fitness." From left to right, top row: Dr. Joseph Miller, Mental Hygiene chairman; Mrs. O. C. Ufford, regional vice-president and leader; and Martha L. Clifford, M.D., Health and Summer Round-Up chairman. Bottom row: Mrs. Beas N. Rosa, Social Hygiene chairman; Mrs. L. K. Nicholson, Safety chairman; and Dr. Elise H. Martens, Exceptional Child chairman.

BROTHERHOOD WEEK

"In Peace as in War—Teamwork!" This is the theme of Brotherhood Week, which will be observed February 17–24, 1946, during the week of Washington's birthday. Now that we have won victory over the forces that exploited racial and religious hatred, we must strive to make our ideals of democracy a reality here in a nation that champions freedom.

The parent-teacher organization leads all others in being truly tolerant and democratic, and our local associations are especially fitted to urge better teamwork of all races and religions.

The war brought all Americans close together in a national unity born of common peril, but now that these dangers have been averted we are all too likely to pick up some of our old prejudices that were temporarily forgotten during the emergency. Therefore Brotherhood Week is more important this year than ever.

The aim of this civic observance is "to extend recognition of the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and the Homehood of the Nation." Sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, it is a sincere effort to make each of us more aware of not only the privileges but the responsibilities of American liberty.

If you are organizing a committee for Brotherhood Week, be sure to include representatives from Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faiths. All meetings designed for more than one religious group should be held in a neutral gathering place, and the program should not call for common worship. Speakers, either lay or clerical, representing several races and beliefs can exemplify in dramatic fashion the essence of Brotherhood Week.

Many helps and suggestions for this important observance can be obtained by writing to the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York. The headquarters will supply fifteen-minute radio scripts for use over local stations; plays and stories for school programs; publicity posters; and much other valuable material.

We shall be proud to see our P.T.A.'s taking the lead in promoting and *living* the idea of the common brotherhood of man.

Extra Copies of Pictorial Section

Extra copies of the pictorial section of this issue of the *National Congress Bulletin* may be secured by sending ten cents to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois.

Why not celebrate Founders Day this year by giving some deserving person or institution in your town a subscription to *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*?

The Founders started the magazine, and it would indeed be a tribute to their faith, zeal, and boundless interest in the welfare of children to have every P.T.A. on the subscription list by February 17, 1946. Won't you make this possible by sending in your P.T.A. subscription today if you haven't done so already? The budgeting of \$1 (or more if the treasury warrants it) for subscriptions to our official magazine is a legitimate use of association funds. Many associations also raise money each year for subscriptions for local officers and chairmen.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS

PRACTICALLY every county in the United States has its chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, organized to assure all infantile paralysis patients the best available care and treatment, regardless of their age, race, creed, or color. Half of the money received from the Annual March of Dimes is used for this purpose. The other half goes to the National Foundation where it is used for research, epidemic aid, and education. As a phase of the educational program, doctors and nurses are given up-to-date training in methods of handling infantile paralysis, and scholarships are offered to qualified men and women for training in physical therapy.

Through the Women's Division of the chapters, an attempt is being made to secure complete registration of all cases, with systematic checkups to determine if each one in every stage of the disease is receiving needed help.

Parent-teacher groups can contribute to the fight against this enemy of childhood by educating themselves in regard to infantile paralysis and by cooperating with the local chapters. Pamphlets, written in nontechnical terms, can be obtained on request from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, 120 Broadway, New York 5, New York.

This is our fight—everybody's fight. And only by concerted effort on the part of the scientist, the professional, and the layman can victory finally be won.

SUPPORT OUR OPA PRICE CONTROLS

THROUGH the war years the National Congress supported price control consistently, but we must be careful not to relax during this postwar era that we looked forward to so hopefully. Now we must be even more diligent in winning the fight against inflation, in order not to "buy another depression!"

• *Three and a half million P.T.A. members can exert a real influence in shaping the nation's thinking on this subject. Curbing inflation is one important contribution we can make to our returning servicemen, who should not come back to a country just starting another cycle of inflation and depression.*

"My wife and I together have saved nearly \$3,000," writes a young Navy lieutenant, "and as soon as I am discharged we want to build a home. I hope that OPA is going to hold prices down so that we can realize our plans." Hundreds of letters just like this come to OPA offices every week from servicemen all over the world, for these men have seen what inflation has done in other countries—\$7 for a pound of grapes in England, \$50 for a pack of cigarettes in Africa, \$200 for a fountain pen in France! Another serviceman writes, "If a Chinese coolie saved all his wages for two whole months, he'd have almost enough to buy a cheap alarm clock." Such dire results can yet happen here unless we are vigilant in our stand. Every local unit should take inventory of what has been done in its community and see what further support can be given to OPA price regulations.

Award to National Radio Chairman

Harold B. McCarty, our National chairman of Radio, recently received an outstanding honor for his work in the field of radio education. At the 1945 meeting of the Ninth Annual School Broadcasting Conference in Chicago, Mr. McCarty was presented with the Award of Merit, a recognition for "outstanding and meritorious service to educational radio."